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**PHOTO NEWS RELEASE:**

**Guard hosts high school biathlon event in Rapid City**

RAPID CITY, S.D. – The South Dakota Army National Guard Biathlon Team hosted a summer biathlon (run and shoot) on West Camp Rapid on Wednesday, Aug. 27, for the Stevens Raiders Cross-Country Running Team.

The purpose of the event was to introduce young athletes to the sport of biathlon, running and rifle marksmanship. The event provided local high school athletes with a training opportunity that develops skills that support the upcoming cross-country season.

Each year, the SDARNG fields a winter biathlon team that competes in Minnesota, Montana, Vermont and other international locations in Europe and South America. During these winter events, biathletes compete by negotiating a 10 to 20 kilometer cross-country ski course that incorporates two to four sets of targets that are engaged with a 22-caliber long rifle.



**080827-A-5701M-045:** RAPID CITY, S.D. - South Dakota Army National Guardsman Sgt. Jamie J. Bachman assists Mike Scharn, a Stevens High School student, during a summer biathlon (run and shoot) competition on Wednesday, Aug. 27, at West Camp Rapid that was hosted by the South Dakota Army National Guard Biathlon Team for the Stevens Raiders Cross-Country Running Team. The purpose of the event is to introduce young athletes to the sport of biathlon, running and rifle marksmanship. The event provides local high school athletes with a training opportunity that develops skills that support the upcoming cross-country season. Army National Guard photo by 1st Sgt. Donald Matthews. (RELEASED)

Link to photo: <https://sdguard.ngb.army.mil/released/080827-A-5701M-045.jpg>



**080827-A-5701M-050:** RAPID CITY, S.D. - South Dakota Army National Guardsman 1st. Sgt. Michael O. Shay assists Riley Coates, a Stevens High School student, during a summer biathlon (run and shoot) competition on Wednesday, Aug. 27, at West Camp Rapid that was hosted by the South Dakota Army National Guard Biathlon Team for the Stevens Raiders Cross-Country Running Team. The purpose of the event is to introduce young athletes to the sport of biathlon, running and rifle marksmanship. The event provides local high school athletes with a training opportunity that develops skills that support the upcoming cross-country season. Army National Guard photo by 1st Sgt. Donald Matthews. (RELEASED)

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**080827-A-5701M-143:** Capt. Tom Nelson, an operations officer for the South Dakota Army National Guard, assists Alice Hackett, a Stevens High School student, during a summer biathlon (run and shoot) competition on Wednesday, Aug. 27, at West Camp Rapid that was by the South Dakota Army National Guard Biathlon Team for the Stevens Raiders Cross-Country Running Team. The purpose of the event is to introduce young athletes to the sport of biathlon, running and rifle marksmanship. The event provides local high school athletes with a training opportunity that develops skills that support the upcoming cross-country season. Army National Guard photo by 1st Sgt. Donald Matthews. (RELEASED)

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